

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A utility bag having a vertically stacked/closed position and a horizontally unfolded/opened position, comprising:

three compartments comprising a lower, middle, and upper compartment each having a bottom and an opening, each of the three compartments connected to another of the three compartments by an articulation segment,

the three compartments being vertically arranged on top of one another with the lower compartment's opening facing upward, the middle compartment's opening facing downward, and the upper compartment's opening facing upward when the utility bag is in the vertically/stacked closed position,

the upper compartment having a lid portion selectively covering its opening, the lid portion having a central handle for carrying the utility bag when it is in its vertically stacked/closed position and for moving the utility bag's compartments from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position;

the bag being moveable from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment sideways and downward via the central handle of its lid portion;

the upper compartment's opening still facing upward as the utility bag is moved from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment sideways and

downward;

first and second articulation segments on opposite sides of the bag
when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

the first articulation segment connecting the upper compartment to
the middle compartment along an edge that is located between the upper
compartment's bottom and the middle compartment's bottom;

the second articulation segment connecting the middle
compartment to the lower compartment along an edge that is located between
the middle compartment's opening and the lower compartment's opening;

first and second zippers associated with the first and second
articulation segments, respectively;

the first zipper having separable halves connected to the bottom
and middle compartments, respectively, the first zipper and first articulation
segment securing the openings of the bottom and middle compartments together
when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

the second zipper having separable halves connected to the middle
and top compartments, respectively, the second zipper and second articulation
segment securing the bottoms of the middle and top compartments together
when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

wherein the lower compartment's opening remains facing upward
and the middle compartment's opening rotates from facing downward to facing
upward as the utility bag is moved from the vertically stacked/closed position to
the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment

~~sideways and downward via the central handle of its lid portion;~~

the three compartments being horizontally side-by-side with their openings facing upward when the utility bag is in the horizontally unfolded/opened position.

2. Canceled

3. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein each of the three compartments comprises:

two lengthwise sides; and

two end sides, wherein at least one of the lengthwise sides of at least one of the three compartments has at least one external pocket.

4-5 Canceled

6. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein at least one of the three compartments comprises a removable plastic liner.

7. (original) The utility bag of claim 6, wherein the removable plastic liner is attachable by a hook-and-loop fastener.

8. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein at least one of the three compartments has an external mesh pocket.

9. (currently amended) The utility bag of claim 1, further comprising an strap secured to the utility bag when the utility bag is in the stacked position.

10. Canceled

11 Canceled

12. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein the upper compartment has an internal pocket, the internal pocket made of mesh material.

13. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein the upper compartment has an internal strap for securing a stowed item.

14. Canceled

15. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein the lower compartment comprises a first separator flap securing an interior of the lower compartment.

16. (original) The utility bag of claim 15, wherein the first separator flap comprises a pocket for stowage of one or more items.

17. (previously amended) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein the middle compartment comprises a separator flap securing an interior of the middle compartment.

18-32 Canceled

33. (new) The utility bag of claim 1, wherein the height of the utility bag is about twice the width of the utility bag when viewed from the end in the vertically stacked/closed position, the utility bag being moveable from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment sideways and downward via the central handle of its lid portion.

34. (new) A utility bag having a vertically stacked/closed position and a horizontally unfolded/opened position, comprising:

three compartments comprising a lower, middle, and upper compartment each having a bottom and an opening with four edges;

the three compartments being vertically arranged on top of one another with the lower compartment's opening facing upward, the middle compartment's opening facing downward, and the upper compartment's opening facing upward when the utility bag is in the vertically/stacked closed position,

wherein the height of the utility bag is about twice the width of the utility bag when viewed from the end in the vertically stacked/closed position;

a first articulation segment connecting the upper compartment to the middle compartment along an edge that is located between the upper compartment's bottom and the middle compartment's bottom;

a second articulation segment connecting the middle compartment to the lower compartment along an edge that is located between the middle compartment's opening and the lower compartment's opening;

the first and second articulation segments being located on opposite sides of the bag when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

the upper compartment having a lid portion selectively covering its opening, the lid portion having a central handle for carrying the utility bag when it is in its vertically stacked/closed position and for moving the utility bag's compartments from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position;

the bag being moveable from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment sideways and downward via the central handle of its lid portion;

the upper compartment's opening still facing upward as the utility bag is moved from the vertically stacked/closed position to the horizontally unfolded/opened position by moving the upper compartment sideways and downward;

first and second zippers located along edges of the compartments in association with the first and second articulation segments, respectively;

the first zipper having separable halves connected to the bottom and middle compartments, respectively, the first zipper and first articulation segment securing the openings of the bottom and middle compartments together when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

the second zipper having separable halves connected to the middle and top compartments, respectively, the second zipper and second articulation

segment securing the bottoms of the middle and top compartments together
when the utility bag is in the vertically stacked/closed position;

wherein the lower compartment's opening remains facing upward
and the middle compartment's opening rotates from facing downward to facing
upward as the utility bag is moved from the vertically stacked/closed position to
the horizontally unfolded/opened position ;

the three compartments being horizontally side-by-side with their
openings facing upward when the utility bag is in the horizontally
unfolded/opened position.